

## UCSB Emeriti Association Oral History Committee ~ Spring Report

The Oral History Committee continues to investigate the most effective and cost-efficient methods for recording the oral histories of emeriti faculty who have made critical contributions to UCSB as well as to their respective academic fields. Through conversations (in person and via email), with Linda Adler Krassner, Director of the Center for Innovative Teaching, Research, and Learning and Todd Gillespie, Director of Operations at Learning Resources, we have been investigating which campus offices, in addition to the Library, might partner with us in the venture. We also hope that one of these offices might be able to connect us with students skilled in using mobile phones to film/record interviews. Although we would need to pay students for their time (and expertise), locate an appropriate venue to conduct the interviews, and determine the best way to edit the individual recordings, student help seems far less costly than other possible options such as a formal studio set-up and professional videographers.

Since we are all new to this endeavor, it seems reasonable to conduct one or two trial interviews with “volunteer” members of the Emeriti Association Board before we reach out to other emeriti. If these trial interviews go well, in terms of content and technology, we will add them to the collection. If not, we will have the opportunity to (hopefully) learn from our missteps and circle back to these board members for another interview once we feel confident in our ability to conduct and record oral histories.

Once we decide on the first interviewee and interviewer and commit to a technology, the next step is to draft an outline of the interview. Since it is an oral history, this would probably be more a list of areas of interest/topics than a set of formal questions. There are some decent models that will guide the interview and prevent it from turning into a audio-visual cv.